

Toronto, GTA East & GTA West IRP Webinar

Nov. 25, 2024

Feedback	Enbridge Gas response
What impact will IRP efforts have on natural gas rates?	IRP efforts are designed to address capacity constraints in a way that's optimal and cost effective. The OEB, our regulator has approved a cost effectiveness test that looks at traditional pipeline versus non facility solutions. To the extent that a non-facility alternative is less expensive than a traditional facility solution the impacts to meet those demand needs with the IRP alternative would be less than if we had implemented the facility project. The approval for specific cost consequences for an IRP alternative would be based on the details of that project and where required brought forward for approval to our regulator through the IRP plan approval process on a per project basis.
Does this mean that Enbridge won't be investing in new infrastructure in our communities?	No, it doesn't. We'll continue to invest in our communities where investments in natural gas demands are required and IRP efforts are ensuring that we're looking at the most cost-effective and optimal alternatives when needs are identified in how Enbridge is addressing them. IRP has introduced additional steps in our internal process, and in working with stakeholders, to ensure that system constraints are addressed in an optimal manner that meets customer needs.
When is the first IRP project planned for GTA?	Some of the growth projects in the GTA West area are shown there, being Shelburne area and Brampton, we've technically assessed some of those projects, but their scopes are in development. There's a lot of growth that's being highlighted, there's a lot of different engagement with the municipalities and once we we've really nailed down that scope and nailed down whether or not the facility or IRP or a combination of both is the best way to move forward that could be one of the first ones in the GTA if that's an economic solution.
Is there any significant loss of customers over the last five years?	Enbridge Gas has not observed significant customer egress from the system in Ontario. The 5-year average trend has been <0.1%. Customer egress in Cavan-Millbrook-North Monaghan was observed to be below the Ontario average. Enbridge Gas will continue to monitor customer trends over time to better understand the demands on our natural gas system and to determine the appropriate approach to IRP and/or system pruning in your township.
You mentioned that municipalities are engaged in IRP project development. Given there are many different groups at the municipality that may be impacted by the project. What groups at the municipality are engaged?	Enbridge has a municipal energy solutions team who has ongoing engagement with municipal staff and stakeholders. Typically in the in the process we're working through our municipal energy solutions team to facilitate this engagement with stakeholders within the municipality and work through with the municipality who needs to be at each discussion based on the topics that are going to be discussed, the needs, and the questions that we're working through with the municipality to ensure that we have best available information on what that municipality is planning and the work happening there. We also move through potential consultation for a specific project ensuring we have the right stakeholders at the table. It's beneficial to have that municipal team to work through and ensure that we have we have the right stakeholders around the table for each engagement.
Have you started looking at specific municipalities for system pruning pilot project? Have you considered such a project in Toronto?	For system pruning, we're still in early days of exploring this as a pilot. We haven't targeted any specific municipality at this point, but are looking to see broadly how we can collect all the different data sets that can help to inform the selection criteria. Once we have developed the criteria, we'll review to identify candidates for testing one or two system pruning pilots. But we're starting off small scale, and we need to determine the objectives, criteria and then develop the approach before determining where to test these pilots. So, stay tuned for more information on that, as we work through these elements in 2025 and 2026.
Hydro One is engaged with Enbridge and IRP, but not mentioned in our PowerPoint.	That's was maybe a miss on our part and we'll make sure to highlight it in the future presentations. When we're meeting with the municipalities, we're also meeting with some of the local electrical LDCs or utilities as well as the IESO to just determine is there any constraints on the electrical systems.
When is the first IRP project planned for the GTA	We have to look at the economic assessment for those projects and any others that are maybe a little bit smaller, but we can't fully comment on that. But hopefully within the next year or two, we can highlight a lot more about which ones are economically feasible and we'll have more on that hopefully soon.
Is Enbridge considering renewed incentives for builders that construct new homes to higher energy efficiency standards, installation of heat pumps etc.?	Enbridge Gas's broad-based energy conservation programs includes a new construction Savings By Design Residential program which provides builders and developers incentives to support building to higher standards. There are currently two offerings in market, Energy Star for New Homes and Net Zero Energy Ready discovery home. Additional detail can be found on our webpage: https://www.enbridgegas.com/ontario/business-industrial/incentives-conservation/programs-and-incentives/new-construction/savings-by-design/residential
From the jurisdictions you mentioned that are doing pruning already, which is the most advanced?	Enbridge Gas has initiated a jurisdictional scan with a consulting firm, which includes an initial landscape assessment to identify which jurisdictions or utilities are pursuing gas system pruning and select a subset to conduct more targeted research into their system pruning processes. On a preliminary basis New York, California, Colorado and Massachusetts have begun to assess candidate systems and in some cases move forward in seeking to implement system pruning initiatives. The jurisdictional scan will provide more detailed information on progress within selected jurisdictions, and seek to provide information on emerging best practices and lessons learned.